



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
William E. Morse
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552**

PORTSMOUTH WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE - U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono and Joseph A. Galasso Special Agent in Charge of the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Unit of the Boston Field Office announced today that Michelle A. Winder (a.k.a. Michelle Anne Holzweiss) pleaded guilty to evading personal federal income taxes. The plea was accepted by U.S. District Court Judge Paul J. Barbadoro in U.S. District Court in Concord. Winder, age 40, resides in Portsmouth New, Hampshire.

Winder pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion based upon her willful failure to report \$321,124.00 in income she received in 1999 on her individual federal income tax return for that year. According to statements made at her plea hearing today, Winder received those funds from the sale of her interest in a business but did not report them on her federal income tax return. At her plea hearing, Winder acknowledged that she evaded a total of \$112,560.00 in 1999 and two other years for which she failed to report income from the sale of her business.

The Court scheduled Winder's sentencing for June 29, 2005. Winder faces a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison, as well as substantial monetary penalties.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono noted that, "As taxpayers prepare their federal income tax returns in the coming weeks, this prosecution case should serve as a pointed reminder about the need for them to be truthful and complete."

This matter was investigated by the Portsmouth Office of the Division of Criminal Investigation of the Internal Revenue Service. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Morse.